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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,246	07/08/2003	Thomas E. Lenkman	TEM-20A	6077
7590	10/18/2005			
Henry W. Cummings 3313 W. Adams St. St. Charles, MO 63301			EXAMINER SWENSON, BRIAN L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3618	
DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/614,246

Applicant(s)

LENKMAN, THOMAS E.

Examiner

Brian Swenson

Art Unit

3618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Cfr

DETAILED ACTION

1. Acknowledgment is made of the amendment filed on 20 June 2005 where:
 - a. Claims 1-5 have been cancelled; and
 - b. Claim 15 added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 6-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 15, the phrase "said raising and lower means" is indefinite because the Examiner is unsure whether this "said raising and lower means" is the same as the "means to raise and lower motive components" found in line 3 of the claim.

3. Regarding claim 13 the limitation "treat position for medical device operation" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claims 13-15, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,845,914 issued Lenkman.

Lenkman teach in Figures 1-13 and respective portions of the specification of a transport system (7) comprising: a self-propelled transport assembly, and controlling means (53,55) to raise and lower motive components to facilitate different modes of operation (see at least Col. 2, lines 60+ through Col. 3, lines 1-8 for the shocks expanded mode of operation and shocks retracted mode of operation). Lenkman teaches the raising and lowering means comprise a system of air compressors (57,59) and pneumatic lift devices (53,55), pneumatic plumbing (unlabeled inherently provided to facilitate movement of air for the lift devices). Lenkman teaches of the motive components comprise unpowered casters (49) and at least two powered drive units (37; Figure 13). Lenkman teaches in Figures 4 and 5 of lowering the unpowered casters by means of the pneumatic lift devices. Lenkman teaches of a controller (65) for controlling operation of the transport assembly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6-12, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenkman.

In regards to claims 6 and 8-9, Lenkman as best understood, teach of powered drive unit comprising: an electric motor (39), a drive belt (41), an axle (Figure 13), and a wheel (37). Lenkman does not state if the electric motor is a variable speed reversible electric motor. Variable speed reversible electric motors are well-known in the mechanical art. Lenkman, also teaches of a drive belt, not a chain. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a variable speed reversible electric motor and drive chain in place of the drive belt. One would be motivated to use a variable speed drive motor to allow the transported to move the cart forward or rearward at a variety of speeds, one would be motivated to use a drive chain to allow the motor to rotate the drive wheel without slipping. In regards to claims 8 and 9, see at least Col. 6, lines 29-36.

In regards to claims 7 and 12, Lenkman discloses the claimed invention including teaching of an electronics cabinet as shown in Figure 12 placed below reference numeral (59). Lenkman does not state if indicators are provided. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide indicators. The motivation for providing indications would be to alert the user of the charge contained in the battery.

In regards to claim 10 Lenkman as best understood, teach of providing for a battery charged by an external reel, Col. 6 lines 29-37.

In regards to claim 11 Lenkman as best understood, teach of a joystick assembly (65) to control motion.

In regards to claims 13 and 14, as best understood, Lenkman teaches of controlling the modes of operation by inflating/deflating pneumatic lift devices, see at least summary of invention.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Swenson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6699. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on (571) 272-6914. The fax phone

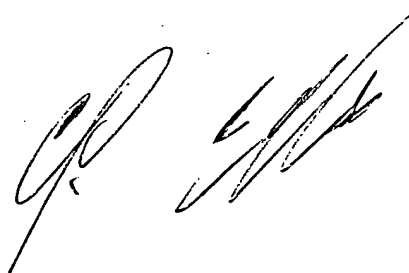
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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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bls

Brian Swenson
Examiner
Art Unit 3618



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